The final project in this course is to design a calendar. It can be for any year you choose (2009, 2019, 1934, 2365) but it must accurately cover the entire year.

We can talk about the calendar, by which we usually mean the Western, Gregorian calendar, or a calendar, by which we mean a physical object that functions as a map telling us where we are. The Gregorian calendar is a very common one around the world, but there are others (Islamic, Chinese, etc.)

The function of the calendar is to locate the user in time; to tell them at a glance where they are among the various systems, mostly arbitrary, that make up the way we measure history. “Monday, April 6, 2009” refers to four different ways of breaking up time—day, week, month, year—that don’t neatly fit with each other. The calendar, in whatever form we look at it, is necessary to help us understand when we are.

As always in graphic design, the calendar is balanced between visuals and information. Though you must represent every day of the year, how to organize the calendar is up to you; you can do a weekly, monthly or daily calendar, or you can include the entire year on a single sheet. The more you vary from the standard calendar format, though, the stronger the need to justify your decision. Does your design still work as a calendar?
Some things to keep in mind:

- What information is necessary or useful to include on the calendar? Medieval liturgical calendars included every feast day or holy day; they defined sacred time in the same way that a cathedral defined sacred space. Modern calendars usually point out weekends (maybe Sundays especially) and national holidays. What else? Celebrity birthdays, solstices and full moons, historical dates? These decisions will help determine the overall nature of your calendar, which then might express itself visually as well.

- What’s the relationship between consistency and variation in your design? The calendar contains multiple pages, or at least multiple parts. Is each month/week/day different in design, color, typography? If so, what’s the underlying structure that lets us read the calendar easily?

- The calendar is at least partly typographic. What’s the relationship between images and text?

Technical requirements

- the calendar can be of any size, proportion, and number of pages/sheets. Keep in mind that this is part of your decision about the function of the calendar; wall calendars are easy to read from a distance, pocket calendars/organizers actually fit in your pocket, etc.

- InDesign is the easiest multipage software to use, but you may use any software you want.